

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01747 030829Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
AID-05 HA-05 IO-13 ACDA-12 /096 W  
-----100805 030832Z /11

P R 030734Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9647  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, KS, US  
SUBJ: KOREAN MEDIA ON US-RELATED TOPICS, MARCH 3, 1978

REF: SEOUL 1697 (DTG 020843Z MAR 78)

1. RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS: IN REPLY TO INTERPELLATION BY NDP CHMN. Y CH'OL-SEUNG, THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT, ALTHOUGH A GENERAL AMNESTY WOULD BE UP TO THE PRESIDENT AND THEREFORE BEYOND HIS COMPETENCE TO COMMENT, HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE POLITICAL PRISONERS (OF WHOM "ONLY 140" REMAIN) RELEASED "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". STATEMENT WAS VAGUE ENOUGH NOT TO CONSTITUTE A COMMITMENT. ALL SEOUL DAILIES CARRIED STATEMENT; THERE SEEMED TO BE MORE INTEREST IN A POSSIBLE AMNESTY OF FELONS THAN IN THE FATE OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS.

2. ALL DAILIES REPORT SEOUL KBS BROADCAST MADE BY MIN KWAN-SIK, ROK CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTH-SOUTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE, INVITING NORTH KOREA TO AGREE TO EARLY RESUMPTION OF NORTH-SOUTH TALKS AS WELL AS TO "EXCHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC,  
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CULTURAL, SOCIAL, AND SPORTS FIELDS". MIN ALSO URGED "RESTORATION" OF THE NORTH-SOUTH HOT LINE. (COMMENT: HOT LINE IS OPEN, BUT NK SIDE HAS NOT ANSWERED THE PHONE IN SOME TIME.)

3. PARK TONG-SON CASE CONTINUES TO MAKE NEWS, WITH TODAY'S EMPHASIS SUMMARIZED BY TONG-A ILBO HEADLINE

"CONGRESSMEN RESENT PARK'S EVASIVE ATTITUDE". STORIES SAY PARK'S INCOMPLETE ANSWERS NECESSITATE INTENSIVE GRILLING, MAKING SESSIONS HARD ON ALL PARTICIPANTS. REPS FENWICK AND CAPUTO ARE QUOTED AS SKEPTICAL OF PARK'S INSISTENCE THAT HE COMMITTED BRIBERY STRICTLY ON HIS OWN BEHALF.

4. MOST DAILIES FRONTPAGE STORY QUOTING JAPAN SELF-DEFENSE AGENCY DIRECTOR SAYING THAT, IF WAR OCCURS, JAPAN WILL "AID CIVILIAN REFUGEES", WHILE US MARINES IN JAPAN "WILL IMMEDIATELY TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTION". SEMI-OFFICIAL KYONGHYANG SINMUN'S HEADLINE IS "JAPAN WILL ASSIT IF KOREA IS INVADED".

5. ALL DAILIES CARRY WITHOUT COMMENT FAR EAST ECONOMIC REVIEW STORY, DESCRIBED SEPTEL, THAT AMB SNEIDER WILL BE REASSIGNED IN MAY.

6. FEATURE COVERAGE CONTINUES OF TEAM SPIRIT, WITH BIOS OF ADM MOORER AND OF KOREAN-AMERICAN SOLDIERS PARTICIPATING. STERN

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, WAR, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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